

CLIMATE AND WATER UNDER CHANGE (CLIWAC)

Historical-sociological study on the perception and handling of water-related risks since the 18th century in the Berlin-Brandenburg region

Why this project?

The Berlin-Brandenburg region is one of the driest areas in Germany. Both in terms of the availability and quality of water, climate change is altering the risks for the six million people in this region, e.g. in the frequency and intensity of extreme events such as droughts and floods. As a transdisciplinary research initiative of the Berlin University Alliance, the Einstein Research Unit Climate and Water under Change (CliWaC) is dedicated to investigating these water-related risks of climate change in the Berlin-Brandenburg region.

Method

The contribution of the DRU consists of a historical-sociological analysis of the perception and reaction structures of rural and urban population groups and institutional actors in Berlin-Brandenburg to water-related risks since the 18th century. An environmental history of water in Berlin-Brandenburg reveals social vulnerabilities as well as phenomena of resilience and agency.

Innovation

CliWaC brings together social and natural science as well as practical expertise of local actors to develop mitigation and adaption measures against climate change impacts. The historical-sociological sub-project of the DRU offers new perspectives on how current climate policy structures came to be and reveals social resources.



Lake Sacrow, image source © Sonja Knopp



Duration: 01/2022 – 12/2024

Region: Berlin-Brandenburg

Partner:

- Free University Berlin – Disaster Research Unit (DRU)
- Humboldt University Berlin
- Technische Universität Berlin
- Charité
- Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF)
- Institute for Ecological Economy Research (IÖW)

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